

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

VICTORIA JOY GODWIN,

Plaintiff,

v.

SENIOR GARDEN APARTMENTS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:17-cv-02178-MMD-DJA

ORDER

Pending before the Court is Defendant Zack Noland’s Motion to Stay Discovery (ECF No. 191), filed on January 29, 2021. To date, no response has been filed. Courts have broad discretionary power to control discovery. *See, e.g., Little v. City of Seattle*, 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir.1988). In deciding whether to grant a stay of discovery, the Court is guided by the objectives of Rule 1 to ensure a just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action. *See Kidneigh v. Tournament One Corp.*, 2013 WL 1855764, at *2 (D. Nev. May 1, 2013). “The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not provide for automatic or blanket stays of discovery when a potentially dispositive motion is pending.” *Tradebay, LLC v. eBay, Inc.*, 278 F.R.D. 597, 600 (D. Nev. 2011). However, preliminary issues such as jurisdiction, venue, or immunity are common situations that may justify a stay. *See Twin City Fire Ins. v. Employers of Wausau*, 124 F.R.D. 653 (D. Nev. 1989); *see also Kabo Tools Co. v. Porauto Indus. Co.*, 2013 WL 5947138, at *1 (D. Nev. Oct. 31, 2013) (granting stay based on alleged lack of personal jurisdiction); *Ministerio Roca Solida v. U.S. Dep’t of Fish & Wildlife*, 288 F.R.D. 500, 506 (D. Nev. 2013) (granting stay based in part on alleged lack of subject matter jurisdiction).

Further, motions to stay discovery pending resolution of a dispositive motion may be granted when: (1) the pending motion is potentially dispositive; (2) the potentially dispositive motion can be decided without additional discovery; and (3) the Court has taken a “preliminary

1 peek” at the merits of the potentially dispositive motion to evaluate the likelihood of dismissal.
2 *See Kor Media Group, LLC v. Green*, 294 F.R.D. 579, 581 (D. Nev. 2013).

3 A party seeking to stay discovery pending resolution of a potentially dispositive motion
4 bears the heavy burden of establishing that discovery should be stayed. *See, e.g., Turner*
5 *Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Tracinda Corp.*, 175 F.R.D. 554, 556 (D. Nev. 1997) (noting that a
6 stay of discovery may be appropriate where the complaint was “utterly frivolous, or filed merely
7 for settlement value.”); *Blankenship v. Hearst Corp.*, 519 F.2d 418, 429 (9th Cir. 1975). When
8 deciding whether to issue a stay, a court must take a “preliminary peek” at the merits of the
9 dispositive motion pending in the case. *Tradebay*, 278 F.R.D. at 602-603. In doing so, a court
10 must consider whether the pending motion is potentially dispositive of the entire case, and
11 whether that motion can be decided without additional discovery. *Id.* This “preliminary peek” is
12 not intended to prejudge the outcome, but to evaluate the propriety of a stay of discovery “with
13 the goal of accomplishing the objectives of Rule 1.” *Id.* (citation omitted). That discovery may
14 involve inconvenience and expense is not sufficient, standing alone, to support a stay of
15 discovery. *Turner Broadcasting*, 175 F.R.D. at 556. An overly lenient standard for granting
16 requests to stay would result in unnecessary delay in many cases.

17 After considering all of the arguments, the Court finds that Defendant has carried his
18 burden of demonstrating that a stay of discovery is warranted in this case – including initial
19 disclosures. Having taken a preliminary peek at the Motion to Dismiss (ECF Nos. 187), the
20 Court is not convinced that Plaintiff will survive dismissal. The Court notes its view “may be
21 very different than how the assigned district judge will see the . . . picture.” *AMC Fabrication,*
22 *Inc. v. KRD Trucking W., Inc.*, 2012 WL 4846152, *4 (D. Nev. Oct. 10, 2012). Nevertheless, the
23 Court agrees with Defendant that the pending Motion to Dismiss warrants a stay of discovery as
24 it deals with threshold issues of quasi-judicial immunity and Eleventh Amendment immunity.

25 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant Zack Noland’s Motion to Stay
26 Discovery (ECF No. 191) is **granted**.

27 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties shall file a stipulated discovery plan and
28 scheduling order within 14 days of an Order on the pending Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 187) to

1 the extent that the case survives and review the amendments to the Local Rules of Practice for
2 the District of Nevada that were adopted on April 17, 2020, specifically Local Rules 26-1
3 through 26-7, to ensure that they submit a compliant plan.

4 Dated: February 1, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Albregts', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel J. Albregts
United States Magistrate Judge